

WESTERN NEWS

Libby MT 59923

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ASK EPA !!

Questions and Answers

about Asbestos and EPA's Investigation

Q: What is EPA Technical Assistance Grant Program?

A: EPA provides \$50,000 technical assistance grants to non-profit community groups for activities that help the community participate in decision making at National Priority List sites. EPA will plan a public meeting in Libby to provide general information on the Technical Assistance Program.

Amendments to the Superfund law in 1986 strengthened the public's ability to participate by creating the TAG Program. Congress wanted to ensure that people whose lives were affected by hazardous wastes would have an opportunity to provide input on cleanup actions. Since the first TAG was awarded in 1988, more than \$20 million has been awarded directly to community groups.

An initial grant of \$50,000 was awarded in March 2003 to the Libby Area Technical Assistance Group (LATAG) and they have contracted with an independent technical advisor to interpret complex technical information for interested community members.

LATAG will have several vacancies on its Board in March, 2004. The TAG is seeking people from the community with a variety of skills and experience. Some desirable skills include:

- communications (news media, internet, desktop publishing)
- education and training, community involvement
- administrative skills
- facilitation

If you are interested in being considered for a board position please attend the TAG at the next meeting on March 9, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. Please call the EPA Information Center at 293-6194 to find out where the meeting will be held. You may also send a letter of interest to:

LATAG, P.O. Box 53, Libby, Montana 59923

For more information call toll free:

Wendy Thomi at 1-866-457-2690 or
EPA Information Center at 293-6194